

PART 1

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION**

**JENNIE COURTNEY,
AS ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE
ESTATE OF DENNIS COURTNEY,
DECEASED,**

PLAINTIFF,

v.

ANTHONY CLARK, et al.

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**CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2:06-CV-600-DRB
(Removed from the Circuit Court of
Covington County, AL; CV-06-110)**

**PLAINTIFF RESPECTFULLY
DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY**

MOTION TO AMEND COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, Jennie Courtney, as Executrix of the Estate of Dennis Courtney, Deceased, in accordance with the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* and this Court's Order, and moves this Honorable Court to allow her to amend her Complaint to include Covington County, AL as a named Defendant, and also to amend her substantive allegations to read as follows:

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**PLAINTIFF RESPECTFULLY
DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY**

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, Jennie Courtney, as Executrix of the Estate of Dennis Courtney, Deceased, in accordance with the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*, and files the following claim for relief against the Defendants, Sheriff Anthony Clark, Jerry Wayne Edgar, Walter Inabinett, Black Creek Integrated Systems, Inc., Oscar Roy Doster, James Darren Harnage, Hollis and Span, Inc., Seymour and Lisenby, Darden Engineers, Inc. Dickey and Associates, Inc., and Covington County, AL. As grounds for filing this complaint and in support of the same, Plaintiff respectfully submits and shows unto the Court as follows:

PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

1. The Plaintiff, Jennie Courtney, is over the age of nineteen (19) years and resides in DeRidder, Louisiana (Beauregard Parish). Jennie Courtney is the Executrix of the Estate of Dennis Courtney.
2. The Defendant, Anthony Clark (hereinafter "Sheriff"), is over the age of nineteen (19) years; is the Sheriff of Covington County, Alabama; and is a resident of Covington County, Alabama.
3. The Defendant, Jerry Wayne Edgar, is over the age of nineteen (19) years; was the Chief Deputy in charge of the jail on the day that Defendant and Inmate, Oscar Doster escaped from the Covington County Jail and is a resident of Covington County, Alabama.
4. The Defendant, Walter Inabinett, is over the age of nineteen (19) years; was a deputy at the jail on the day that Defendant and Inmate, Oscar

Doster escaped From Covington County Jail and is a resident of Covington County, Alabama.

5. The Defendant, Black Creek Integrated Systems, Inc. is a corporation registered to do business and doing business in the State of Alabama.
6. The Defendant, Oscar Roy Doster is over the age of nineteen (19) years and is currently incarcerated awaiting trial on criminal charges.
7. The Defendant, James Darren Harnage is over the age of nineteen (19) years and is currently incarcerated awaiting trial on criminal charges.
8. The Defendant, Hollis and Span, Inc. is a corporation registered to do business and doing business in the State of Alabama.
9. The Defendants, Seymour and Lisenby are architects and a corporation registered to do business and doing business in the State of Alabama.
10. The Defendant, Darden Engineers, Inc. is a corporation registered to do business and doing business in the State of Alabama.
11. The Defendant, Dickey and Associates, Inc. is a corporation registered to do business and doing business in the State of Alabama.
12. The Defendant, Covington County, Alabama, is a county within the State of Alabama.

FACTS

13. This is an action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, et seq. and state law to recover civil damages arising from violations of the Fourteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution and state law which resulted in the death of Dennis Courtney on or about April 6, 2005.

14. On or about April 6, 2005, decedent, Dennis Courtney was found dead at his secondary residence in Oakwood, Texas. His death was ruled a homicide.
15. Escaped inmates, Oscar Roy Doster and James Darren Harnage were implicated in the death of Dennis Courtney.
16. Prior to April 6, 2005, Oscar Roy Doster and James Darren Harnage were inmates in the Covington County, Alabama jail, which was administered and overseen by Defendant, Sheriff Anthony Clark. Oscar Roy Doster along with inmate James Darren Harnage was allowed to escape from the jail on or about March 31, 2005, in a similar manner and method as their first escape which occurred on or about November 3, 2002.
17. Defendants, Oscar Roy Doster, James Darren Harnage and others were allowed to escape from the Covington County, Alabama jail by the Sheriff and his employees.
18. Prior to the escape of Oscar Roy Doster, James Darren Harnage and others, numerous other instances of escapes had occurred and Sheriff Anthony Clark was fully aware of these instances.
19. In the incident that made the basis of this complaint, Oscar Roy Doster, James Darren Harnage and others were allowed to escape by entering the ventilation system of the jail building without being detected in a similar manner and method as the first time Doster escaped. Oscar Roy Doster, James Darren Harnage and others exited the jail facility through the

ventilation system and then scaled the surrounding fence and successfully escaped without being detected in any way.

20. Sheriff Anthony Clark and his staff failed to keep a proper lookout and/or properly monitor and supervise the activities of Oscar Roy Doster and other inmates.
21. Defendants Sheriff Anthony Clark; Jerry Wayne Edgar; and Walter Inabinett aided, abetted, assisted, and orchestrated the escapes of the inmates financially and logistically. These Defendants coordinated and allowed the escapes and gave money to the inmates after they escaped.
22. When arrested in California after the second escape, Defendant Oscar Roy Doster gave a recorded statement that Defendant Jerry Wayne Edgar paid him to escape.
23. In addition, when the first escape occurred in 2002, Sheriff Anthony Clark and his staff willfully and intentionally suppressed the information of the escape. Sheriff Anthony Clark neglected to notify the public of the inherent danger lurking. Sheriff Anthony Clark deliberately waited until after the regularly scheduled election in November 2002 wherein he was a candidate seeking reelection to his position as Sheriff. Sheriff Anthony Clark hid this information from the public in an effort to avoid negative publicity as he sought the bid for reelection.
24. Defendants, Hollis and Span, Inc., Seymour and Lisenby Architects, Darden Engineers, Dickey and Associates, Inc., and Covington County

were each separately and severally responsible for the design, engineering and/or construction of the Covington County Jail facility.

25. Defendants, Black Creek Integrated Systems, Inc, and Covington County, were responsible for the installation and proper operation of the surveillance system in the Covington County Jail facility.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Plaintiff alleges against the Defendants, Sheriff Anthony Clark; Jerry Wayne Edgar; Walter Inabinett; Black Creek Systems, Inc.; Seymour & Lisenby, Inc.; Darden Engineers, Inc.; Dickey & Associates, Inc.; and Covington County as follows:

26. The Plaintiff adopts and incorporates by reference the relevant portions of paragraphs 1 through 25 above.
27. The Plaintiff avers that the occurrence, namely the second successful escape by Defendants, Oscar Doster and James Darren Harnage was inherently dangerous and unsafe for the public at the time of said occurrence and up until the time that they were captured and returned to custody. The Plaintiff further avers that the Defendants, Sheriff Anthony Clark; Jerry Wayne Edgar; Walter Inabinett, Black Creek Integrated Systems, Inc.; Seymour & Lisenby, Inc.; Darden Engineers, Inc.; Dickey & Associates, Inc.; and Covington County, knew or should have known of the faulty design and construction of the Covington County jail facility and inadequate surveillance system which enabled inmates to escape and owed a duty to Dennis Courtney and the general public to warn them of

and protect them from the inherent danger created by and associated with escaped inmates.

28. The Plaintiff avers that the negligent or wrongful conduct of the Defendants, Sheriff Anthony Clark; Jerry Wayne Edgar; Walter Inabinett, Black Creek Integrated Systems, Inc.; Seymour & Lisenby, Inc.; Darden Engineers, Inc.; Dickey & Associates, Inc.; and Covington County, was the actual, proximate and contributory cause of the death of Dennis Courtney.

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, the plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants, Sheriff Anthony Clark; Jerry Wayne Edgar; Walter Inabinett, Black Creek Integrated Systems, Inc.; Seymour & Lisenby, Inc.; Darden Engineers, Inc.; Dickey & Associates, Inc.; and Covington County, separately and severally, in an amount which will adequately reflect the purpose of the Alabama Wrongful Death Act and 42 U.S.C. § 1983 consistent with the culpability of the Defendant's conduct as may be determined by the jury, plus interest and costs, in excess of the minimal jurisdictional limits of this Court.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Plaintiff alleges against Defendants, Sheriff Anthony Clark; Jerry Wayne Edgar; Walter Inabinett, Black Creek Integrated Systems, Inc.; Seymour & Lisenby, Inc.; Darden Engineers, Inc.; Dickey & Associates, Inc.; and Covington County, as follows:

29. The Plaintiff adopts and incorporates by reference the relevant portions of paragraphs 1 through 28 above.

30. The Defendants, Sheriff Anthony Clark; Jerry Wayne Edgar; Walter Inabinett, Black Creek Integrated Systems, Inc.; Seymour & Lisenby, Inc.; Darden Engineers, Inc.; Dickey & Associates, Inc.; and Covington County, negligently hired contractors and/or subcontractors, architects, engineers, and a surveillance company to design, construct and maintain adequate surveillance equipment for the Covington County jail involved in the occurrence made the subject matter of this complaint.
31. The Plaintiff avers that the negligent or wrongful conduct of the Defendants, Sheriff Anthony Clark; Jerry Wayne Edgar; Walter Inabinett, Black Creek Integrated Systems, Inc.; Seymour & Lisenby, Inc.; Darden Engineers, Inc.; Dickey & Associates, Inc.; and Covington County, was the actual, proximate and contributory cause of the death of Dennis Courtney.

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, the plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants, Sheriff Anthony Clark; Jerry Wayne Edgar; Walter Inabinett, Black Creek Integrated Systems, Inc.; Seymour & Lisenby, Inc.; Darden Engineers, Inc.; Dickey & Associates, Inc.; and Covington County, separately and severally, in an amount which will adequately reflect the purpose of the Alabama Wrongful Death Act and 42 U.S.C. § 1983 consistent with the culpability of the Defendant's conduct as may be determined by the jury, plus interest and costs, in excess of the minimal jurisdictional limits of this Court.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION